



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

It's never too early!

Thanks to research over the last decade, we now know much more about how babies develop their early language skills. Here are some facts:

- Babies begin to learn language from birth. Reading aloud exposes children to the sounds of speech.
- Children who are spoken to and read to develop into better readers.
- Reading aloud to babies and toddlers lays the foundation for learning to read.

Reading With Your Baby or Toddler...

From birth to 3 months, your baby:

- prefers books with bright colors and designs.
- looks at pictures but might not want to touch the book.
- gazes at you when you sing songs or nursery rhymes.

At 4 to 6 months, your baby:

- explores books by putting them in her mouth.
- investigates books by patting, grabbing and pulling pages.
- may coo and babble at you when you read.

At 6 to 12 months, your baby:

- babbles at some of the pictures.
- can turn the pages with your help.
- plays with books like toys.

At 12 to 18 months, your child:

- can hold or carry books without your help.
- turns pages and looks at books by herself.
- uses his index finger to point at the illustrations.

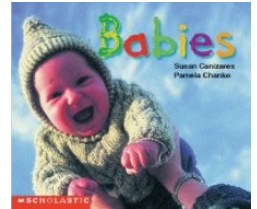
At 18 to 24 months, your child:

- may say some of the words and phrases in familiar books.
- pretends to read.
- wants to hear a favorite story over and over.
- may like to carry favorite books around.

Book of the Month

***Babies*, by Susan Canizares and Pamela Chanko**

The bright photographs and simple text in this book explore the world of babies and their needs. And because babies and toddlers love to look at pictures of other children, this will become a favorite book in your child's home library!



More board books babies/toddlers will love:

What Shall We Do With the Boo-Hoo Baby? Mandy Stanley

Motown Baby Love series, Charles R. Smith

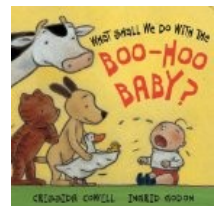
Peek-a-Baby, Karen Katz

Global Babies, Global Fund for Children

Big Book of Beautiful Babies, David Ellwand

Blankie, Leslie Patricelli

First Words, Anna Harrison



New Board Books (2009):



Daddy, Do You Love Me? and *Mommy, Do You Love Me?* by Ron Berry

Superhero Me!, Karen Katz



More fun with *Babies...*

Make your own book... You will need an old photo album from around the house or from a thrift/dollar store or yard sale. Insert photos of your baby/toddler and use stickers or file labels to write a caption such as "Happy," or "Sleepy." You could also make a book of your family, labeling "Dad," or "cat." Your child will love "reading" these books with you over and over again!

Talk about it... After reading the story, go back and ask your child to point to familiar objects on a page. "Where's the bottle? (Help your child point with her finger or hand.) There it is! The baby is drinking milk from the bottle." Repeat with blanket, diaper, etc.

Seeing first words... If your toddler can point to the bottle on the page, show him the word "bottle." Repeat with other objects. Begin showing your toddler other words, such as the name of the cereal on the box, words on food packaging, such as "milk" or "eggs," or his or her first name.

Action Rhyme: Snowmen Cookies

(Use fingers for snowmen)

Five cookie snowmen sitting on a tray,
Five cookie snowmen smiling all day.
Along came a little boy/girl rubbing his/her
tummy,

One cookie disappeared,
Yum, yum, yummy!

(Repeat with 4, 3, 2)

One cookie snowman sitting on a tray,
One cookie snowman smiling all
day.

Along came a little boy/girl
rubbing his/her tummy,
The last cookie disappeared,
Yum, yum, yummy!



Holiday Tunes!



'Tis the season to sing "Jingle Bells" and other family favorites. Sharing songs is a good way to explore language and different cultures with your child. Music activities can help build vocabulary and improve attention span, concentration and memory. Here's a great website for song favorites:

<http://bussongs.com>



Show your child lots of different musical instruments, and let her play and experiment with some of them. Homemade instruments are cheap and easy to make:

- Shaker: Put rice or beans in a closed container with the lid safely taped in place
- Drum: Use a spoon and a pot, or a wooden spoon and an upside down laundry basket
- Hummer: Use toilet or paper towel roll, cut circle of wax paper that is larger than hole, tape it over hole on one end. Hum into it. For a different sound, paper punch a hole in the side of the roll.

What your library can do for you...

Your library is a great place to find holiday books, music, videos and DVDs!

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